

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: March 13, 2008

Contact: Renee Hoffman  
Phone: 919/ 733-5612

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### **GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES CREATION OF 185 JOBS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY** *JDIG Helps Tessera Technologies Grow in Charlotte*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Tessera Technologies Inc., a leading provider of micro-electronics technology, will expand in Mecklenburg County. The company expects to add 185 jobs and invest \$30 million at its Charlotte facilities during the next five years. The project was made possible in part by a Job Development Investment Grant.

“A key part of our economic strategy is to attract knowledge-based industries such as Tessera to expand in our state,” said Easley. “We are providing the trained, educated workforce that technology companies demand, and the high quality of life and good jobs that workers deserve.”

Since 1990, Tessera has been developing technologies to meet market demands for smaller, higher-performing electronic products at lower cost. The company’s technologies can be found in a wide variety of products including cellular phones, digital cameras, personal computers, gaming consoles, MP3 players, hearing implants and defense electronics.

Headquartered in San Jose, Ca., Tessera has facilities throughout Europe, Asia and the U.S, including approximately 100 workers at Charlotte’s University Research Park, which focus on wafer-level optics technologies used in camera phones. The 185 additional jobs will be mainly engineering positions that will pay an average of \$72,800 a year, not including benefits. This is substantially higher than the Mecklenburg County annual average salary of \$48,724.

“When we acquired Charlotte-based Digital Optics Corporation in 2006, our plan was to proliferate their wafer-level optics technologies into a broader range of applications that would impact people’s lives in tangible ways, and this expansion furthers that intention,” said Tessera Chairman, President and CEO Bruce McWilliams. “After considering a number of possible sites, Kevin Drehmer, general manager of Tessera North America, convinced us that the city’s emerging technology base, cultural vibrancy and positive business climate made it the ideal choice for this expansion.”

“This latest investment in Charlotte is proof positive that our community can provide the on-site amenities that companies need, including skilled workers, information technology and access to transportation,” said State Sen. Malcolm Graham (D-Mecklenburg).

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